12th September 1806

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Businessman in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut.
Mondidier 12 7brth 1806

Very dear Father and Mother

In the hope that you received my last letter, I am writing to you now to find out about the state of your health and to know decision concerning a School for my brother François. I do not doubt that the advantageous offer that Fr Le Blanc made you has made you decide to let him come here with me; I will tell you now what things he will need to have if I have not guessed wrongly. He will need twelve shirts; as for the pocket handkerchiefs I could provide as many as necessary. I could also give him six cravats so that he would only need another six, but I would ask you to give coloured ones. I could give him two or three white waistcoats and as many vests as he would need. He would need twelve pairs of stockings of which some in wool would be useful. Six caps of cotton or (2 illegible words), six serviettes (unless you wanted him to use those which my brother Jean used in Lille), two combs, two bathrobes, three pairs of bed sheets, two blankets, a hat, two pairs of shoes, a silver table setting. I ask you, very dear Father and Mother, to consider quality rather than appearance, here we are more concerned with keeping warm than looking good as we have less heating here than in Flanders. There we are, this seems to me to be all he will need. What happiness for François! and what a pleasure for me if I was not mistaken in my hope! Please, very dear Father, let me know as soon as possible.
In the hope of a speedy answer,
Your very devoted son
C Van Crombrugghe
PS: To avoid useless expenses I would ask you, very dear Father, to make me a chest eleven inches high, twelve inches wide and four feet long. I ask you to bring him[1] so that he is here for the 28th or the 29th September at the latest, because I know by experience what a setback it would be for him not to get sorted out for the beginning of the school year with the others. I ask you to give my good wishes to all the family.

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[1] François